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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 001026

SENSITIVE  
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DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/CE JAMIE LAMORE, G FOR JAOQUIN FERRAO,  
IO AND WHA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/29/2013  
TAGS: [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [UNGA](#) [UNHRC](#) [CU](#) [HU](#)  
SUBJECT: HUNGARY TO SUPPORT CUBA CANDIDATE FOR UN HUMAN  
RIGHTS COUNCIL

Classified By: DCM Jeff Levine, reasons 1.4 (b and d)

11. (C) In an October 29 meeting, MFA America's Directorate Head Szilveszter Bus told DCM that Hungary has reached an agreement with Cuba to support each other's candidates for the UN Human Rights Council. Bus stated he was instructed by the Foreign Minister to convey the information for the sake of transparency.

12. (C) According to Bus there are three vacancies for Latin American countries and three candidates - Cuba among them (Mexico and Uruguay are the others). In Hungary's division there are two vacancies and four candidates (Russia, Macedonia, Azerbaijan and Hungary). Bus stated that the GOH believes it needs Cuba's support and the votes it can bring from some developing countries to win a seat. Bus commented that since Hungary views Cuba's seat as guaranteed, the GOH does not see any practical effect of its support.

13. (C) Prior to sharing this information, Bus provided a detailed report on the range of the Hungarian Government's human rights efforts in Cuba. In response, the DCM noted the irony of a 15-minute presentation of human rights activities and the associated difficulties they cause for Hungarian diplomats in Cuba, while then supporting Cuba for a seat on the Council. Bus assured the DCM that supporting Cuba's candidate in no way diminishes Hungary's shared commitment to improve Human Rights on the island - and specifically - the release of political prisoners.  
Foley